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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, March 2, 2009.

Ms. KAREN STEWART,  
Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, Washington DC.

DEAR MS. STEWART: I write following the successful rollout of the 2009 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. I know that this exhaustive report which catalogues human rights abuses globally is the result of countless hours of hard work on the part of human rights officers in DRL and in American embassies abroad. I also know that the final product often comes after hard fought battles within the building.

I ask that you share with your staff and with human rights officers the world over my profound appreciation for their efforts. At times I know it can seem a thankless task. But the efforts of your bureau to speak truth to power and to be a voice for the voiceless brings hope and makes a difference to millions.

You have my profound thanks. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,  
Member of Congress.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, today, I will be absent from votes in the House, as I will be travelling to Ohio with the President to discuss the economic challenges facing my home state of Ohio.

The most recent unemployment numbers only underscore the clear and glaring need for economic revitalization in my district. I look forward to sharing the perspective of Appalachian Ohio with the President and discussing how we can move forward with plans that offer new opportunity for the people I represent.

This cooperation will be critical to steering our nation's economy back on track.

I will return to the House for any scheduled votes this afternoon.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF FORMER ALABAMA GOVERNOR GUY HUNT

#### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the memory of former Alabama Governor Guy Hunt. Our nation lost a wonderful friend and an individual who made numerous contributions toward the betterment of our state.

A native of Holly Pond, Alabama, Governor Hunt enlisted in the United States Army upon graduation from Holly Pond High School and served in the Korean War. Following his discharge in 1956, he returned to Alabama where he operated an egg farm. In 1958, he was ordained a Primitive Baptist minister.

Governor Hunt's political career began in 1962 when he ran for a seat in the Alabama Senate. He lost the election; however, in 1964, he was elected probate judge of Cullman County becoming the youngest probate judge in Alabama. Honoring a campaign promise, he stepped down after two terms.

He was also active in the Republican Party, serving as state chairman of Ronald Reagan's presidential campaigns in 1976 and 1980. He also chaired Alabama's Republican delegations at the 1976 and 1980 Republican National Conventions.

After President Reagan won election in 1980, he appointed Governor Hunt state director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee. He served on the committee until 1985 when he stepped down to run for governor.

Winning the 1986 election with the most votes ever for a gubernatorial candidate at that time, he became Alabama's first Republican chief executive since Reconstruction. His election to the governor's office is credited with creating a two-party system in the state. Governor Hunt was re-elected in 1990.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering this dedicated public servant. Guy Hunt will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Anne Smith Hunt; two sons, Keith Hunt and his wife Heather, and Cary Smith and his wife Jayne; five daughters, Pamela Hunt, Sherrie Williams, Lynn Harris and her husband Doug, Judy Gurley and her husband Mike, and Lois Swindal and her husband Bruce; 16 grandchildren, Nigel Hunt, Nolan Hunt, Ashley Hunt, Kayla Hunt, Samuel Hunt, Heath Williams, Eric Williams, Kelly Williams, Raygen Catoe, Dusty Kanute, Dawn Brantley, Rachel Gurley, Caryanne Swindal, Bradley Swindal, Joshua Swindal, and Anna Grace Swindal; and eight great-grandchildren, Bonnie Catoe, Katelyn Kanute, Cale Kanute, William Brantley, Parker Brantley, Levi Hunt, Skye Hunter, and Helen Anne Williams—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

#### HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR HOMES ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

#### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1106) to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability:

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 1106, the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009.

Mr. Chair, my congressional district, like districts all across the nation, has been hit hard by the foreclosure crisis. In 2007 Los Angeles County had a foreclosure rate of 12%. In 2008 this number had jumped to 35%. Worse yet, while many parts of the country have already received the full brunt of the foreclosure crisis, experts agree that the full force of the crisis has yet to reach Los Angeles.

I have been concerned that previous congressional efforts to stabilize the economy and help my Los Angeles constituents have failed to address the root of the problem—defaulting mortgages.

I am pleased that the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act will make substantive reforms to end the rising tide of foreclosures and keep families in their homes.

Specifically, the measure will allow a judge to modify primary mortgages in the case of bankruptcy so that families can stay in their homes. Currently, when a family files for bankruptcy they can modify loans on second homes, and other property but not on their primary residence. It is widely recognized that judicial modification of mortgages on primary residences is one of the most significant things that we can do to keep families in their homes.

By encouraging homeowners to work out their loans before filing for bankruptcy, the measure ensures that bankruptcy still remains a measure of last resort. The bill will also adapt federal loan modification programs to make it easier for mortgage servicers to participate.

In addition, the bill begins to address a growing concern—the growing number of organizations that aim to profit off of families who are in crisis and at risk of losing their home. This problem is highly visible in my congressional district, and is a cause of great concern. The measure increases oversight over the FHA home mortgage insurance program to better ensure that predatory lenders are barred from participating.

Mr. Chair, this legislation is necessary to help our nation's path of recovery by addressing the cause of the economic crisis.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this critical measure that will keep our constituents in their homes.